Act, 1960 are being strictly enforced.

Preservation of environment and forests at Surajkund and Badkal Lakes

† 1112. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that land in famous tourists places of Surajkund and Badkal Lakes of Haryana along the Delhi border is being levelled by blasting, in gross violation of the Supreme Court orders in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details of steps Government have taken to protect the forests, as well as the environment of this area?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As per the reports dated 9th August 2002 and 21st October 2002 prepared by Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority for the National Capital Region, in the matter of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 4677 of 1985; M.C. Mehta v/s Union of India and others, in areas adjoining Surajkund and Badkal Lake certain activities including mining have been done which are not in conformity with the orders of the Supreme Court. By its order dated 25.11.2002, Supreme Court has directed the State Government officials concerned to ensure compliance of the orders.

Endangered Species of Birds

† 1113. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bombay Natural History Society and Bird Life International have warned that the rate of decline in the birds of endangered species in India is increasing alarmingly;

(b) if so, whether these institutes have warned that two species of pinhead duck, forest owlet, jardons cruiser, Himalayan mountain quails, cranes and vultures are also included in the endangered birds, which need protection; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to protect these birds?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) Bombay Natural History Society(BNHS), Birdlife International and several other organizations have been expressing concerns about decline in population of several bird species in India.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Pink headed duck and the Himalayan mountain quail were last sighted in 1935 and 1876 respectively and hence are considered extinct. Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to protect Jerdon's Courser, Forest Spotted Owlet, Cranes and Vultures are as follows:-

(i) Protection status of Vultures has been upgraded from Schedule IV to Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 providing it the highest degree of protection under the Act.

(ii) Crucial habitats of various species of wild animals and birds have been notified as National Parks and Sanctuaries. Important National Parks and Sanctuaries are also notified as Ramsar Sites and World Natural Heritage Sites.

(iii) Management of the Wildlife Habitats is done on scientific lines, allowing only such activities in the National Parks and Sanctuaries which are for betterment of Wildlife.

(iv) Support scientific research for monitoring the population status of various species and evolving strategies for *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation of various species.

(v) National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-16 and Wildlife Conservation Strategy 2002 have been framed and adopted in January 2002.

(vi) Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for effective management of National Parks and Sanctuaries.

Reduction of CO_2 and CFC

†1114. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the view point of India in the C.O.P. Conference was different from the earlier view point;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such important changes in Government's policy on such a serious issue, like environment; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the emission of carbon dioxide and C.F.C. at national level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.